

The Charter of Baltimore City**Article II – General Powers**

The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall have full power and authority to exercise all of the powers heretofore or hereafter granted to it by the Constitution of Maryland or by any Public General or Public Local Laws of the State of Maryland; and in particular, without limitation upon the foregoing, shall have power by ordinance, or such other method as may be provided for in its Charter, subject to the provisions of said Constitution and Public General Laws:

(15A)

(a) ~~[(1)]~~ SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, TO acquire, within the boundary lines of Baltimore City, land and property of every kind, by purchase, gift, CONDEMNATION, or any other legal means[, but except within the areas described in paragraph (2) of this subsection and except under the condition provided for in paragraph (3) of this subsection, not by eminent domain,] for or in connection with the public purpose of the industrial ~~and economic~~ growth of Baltimore City[;

(2) (Abrogated by Ch. 354, 1988 Acts of the General Assembly.) 1.

~~(3)~~ (2) Except as authorized by Section (15) of this article, property zoned and occupied exclusively for residential use may not be acquired by eminent domain CONDEMNATION for industrial ~~or commercial purposes~~ GROWTH.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2001.

May 17, 2001

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 546 – District Court – Small Claims Actions.

House Bill 546 expands the exclusive original jurisdiction of the District Court and limits the concurrent original jurisdiction of the circuit courts by increasing the maximum amount in controversy for civil actions with the exclusive original jurisdiction of the District Court from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Currently, if a civil action involves an amount in controversy of not more than \$2,500, the District Court of Maryland has exclusive jurisdiction and the action is required to be filed and heard in the District Court. Expanding the exclusive jurisdiction for the District Court has an impact on the ability of a litigant to request a trial by jury, and precludes discovery in cases that may involve relatively minor amounts in potential